

1001375204 D-137

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM for the NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME				
COMMON: 118 High Street				
AND/OR HISTORIC: Leonard House				
2. LOCATION				
STREET AND NUMBER: 118 High Street				
CITY OR TOWN: Cambridge				
STATE: Maryland		COUNTY: Dorchester		
3. CLASSIFICATION				
CATEGORY (Check One) <input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object		OWNERSHIP <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered		STATUS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No				
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Comments <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Religious _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> Museum <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific _____				
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY				
OWNER'S NAME: Mrs. Clara L. Webb, et. al.				
STREET AND NUMBER: 118 High Street				
CITY OR TOWN: Cambridge		STATE: Maryland		21613
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION				
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Dorchester County Courthouse				
STREET AND NUMBER: 206 High Street				
CITY OR TOWN: Cambridge		STATE: Maryland		21613
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #): Liber 185/Folio 279				
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS				
TITLE OF SURVEY:				
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local				
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE:		

7. DESCRIPTION	
CONDITION	(Check One) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered
	(Check One) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moved <input type="checkbox"/> Original Site
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE	
<p>This house and the one next door, 120 High Street, were originally one large house of about 20 rooms, that was constructed in 1790. The original appearance of the exterior is not known, however. In 1906, the house was split in half, and what is now 118 High Street was moved a distance of about 15 feet. This half is fortunate to retain the original interior paneling and woodwork.</p> <p>The two houses are similar from the outside, both being two and one-half story structures with German siding. 118, however, has a jerkin head roof while 120 has a gable roof with center gable. The jerkin head roof is embellished by large boards with circle motif ornamentation. It is estimated that the front porch with hand carved railing was added in 1859. Only 118 retains the original porch, however. This porch is supported by rectangular columns and semicircular corner brackets with tracery. The ballustrade is the unusual feature of the porch, richly ornamented with semicircles and triangular brackets with tracery work. This half also retains the original door. It is a double door. One of the glass panes is original and is hand carved frosted glass. The colored lights on the sides of the door are actually doors which were built for ventilation.</p> <p>On the interior, pine half-paneling runs the entire hall and upstairs to the second floor. The two downstairs rooms on the north side of the hall have full paneling. A wing has been added to the rear of the house. There were once terraced gardens in back of this house extending all the way down to the creek.</p>	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

B. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian ☐ 16th Century ☒ 18th Century ☒ 20th Century
☐ 15th Century ☐ 17th Century ☐ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1790, c. 1859, 1906

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

History:

The lot on which this house stands, originally running from High Street back to Cambridge Creek, was purchased in 1739 by Dr. William Murray and conveyed to his daughter, Margaret, wife of Edward Trippe. The property eventually passed to Henrietta Murray, wife of Dr. William Robertson, who had the house built in 1790.

This house and the one next door, 120 High Street, were originally one large house of about 20 rooms. After the death of Dr. and Mrs. Robertson, the property descended to their children. The property remained in the same family a total of 114 years, from 1739 until 1853, when it was sold to Lewis Ross. The next owner was William Thomas and at his death in 1892, the property was purchased by Capt. James C. Leonard, who operated the property as a hotel, known as "The Leonard House". This became a well known stopping place for travelers by steamboat and sailing vessels. In 1906, Capt. Leonard decided to give up the hotel. He had this half, 118 High Street, moved a distance of about 15 feet. He and his families continued to live in this half until their death, at which time this half was purchased by his brother, Capt. I. L. Leonard

Significance:

Although altered in the 19th and 20th centuries the Leonard houses are among the oldest on High Street, dating to 1790. This is the least altered of the pair and is fortunate to retain the original interior woodwork, the original door, and the handsome porch that was added around 1859. These two houses contribute to the historic character of High Street and are of architectural interest.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Col. Clement Sullivane, article reprinted in the
Daily Banner, April 23, 1925.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES			
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE			
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	
NW	°	'	"		°	'	"	
NE	°	'	"		°	'	"	
SE	°	'	"		°	'	"	
SW	°	'	"		°	'	"	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

Catherine L. Moore,

ORGANIZATION

DATE

11/10/75

STREET AND NUMBER:

Route 3, Box 32

CITY OR TOWN:

Cambridge

STATE

Maryland

12.

State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Signature

118 HIGH STREET
CAMBRIDGE, MARYLAND

PLC 185/279

My research confirms what Cathe Moore has said, except for one point.

The date 1906 is usually given for the split of the large house into the two houses that stand at 118 and 120 High Street. My evidence points to an earlier date, sometime between 1894 and 1896. In 1894 James C. Leonard bought the lot 118-120 High Street from the estate of William Thomas. At this time there was one large house on the lot. By the spring or summer of 1896, when the tax assessments were taken, there were two substantial dwellings on the lots. The house on 118 High Street was valued at \$2,000, while the one at 120 was assessed at \$1,500. There is also a photograph of the present house at 118 High Street taken before 1901 and designated as the residence of Ivy L. Leonard. Sulivane, who was a contemporary to the events he described, wrote his articles in about 1899. He mentioned that James C. Leonard Split the building into two houses "about two years ago."¹ Sulivane also asserted that Leonard expanded each of the houses at the time that they were divided.

Ivy L. Leonard resided at the house on 118 High Street after 1896, but did not purchase the hosue from his Brother untill1907. It has been in the possession of his descendants ever since. Ivy L. Leonard, like his brother James C., was in the oyster packing business. He established a packing house in 1888 on the shore of Cambridge Creek directly behind the present house.

1. Clement Sulivane, typescript of article printed in the Daily Banner, April 23, 1925, "The Leonard Lot".

Sources:

Dorchester County Courthouse, Cambridge, Maryland
Will Records.
Land Records.
Court Records.


Dorchester County Office Building, Cambridge, Maryland.
AssessmentRecords .

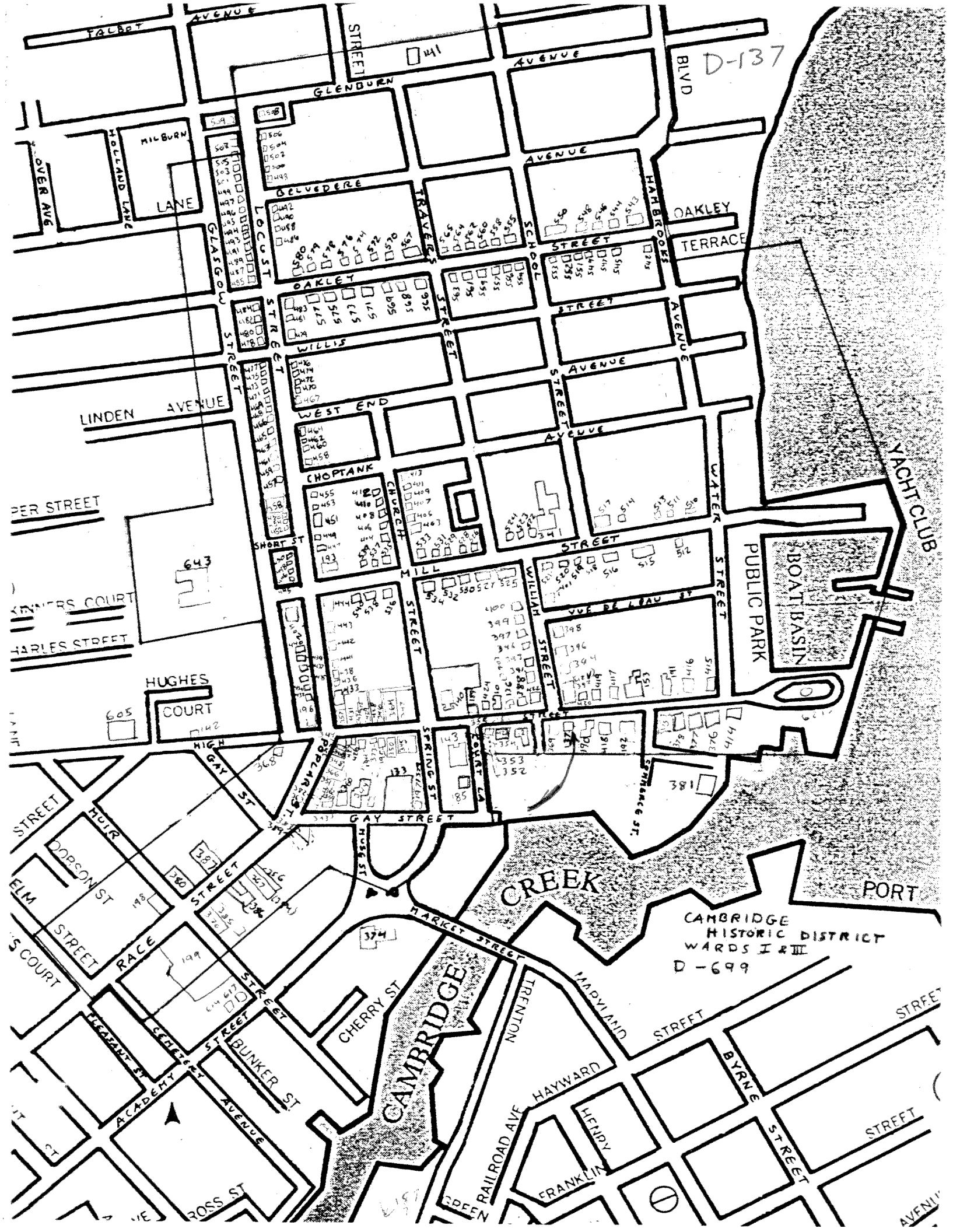
Interview, Mrs. Clara Webb, 118 High Street, owner.

THE EASTERN SHORE, MARYLAND, Baltimroe: R.H. Woodward Co., 1901

Research by:

Terrance Walbert
1976

1. STATE Maryland COUNTY Dorchester TOWN Cambridge VICINITY STREET NO. 118 High St. ORIGINAL OWNER ORIGINAL USE dwelling PRESENT OWNER PRESENT USE WALL CONSTRUCTION NO. OF STORIES	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;"> HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY D-137 </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> 2. NAME Robertson - Leonard House DATE OR PERIOD c. 1790 STYLE ARCHITECT BUILDER </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> 3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE </td> </tr> </table>	HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY D-137		2. NAME Robertson - Leonard House DATE OR PERIOD c. 1790 STYLE ARCHITECT BUILDER	3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE
HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY D-137					
2. NAME Robertson - Leonard House DATE OR PERIOD c. 1790 STYLE ARCHITECT BUILDER	3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE				
4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION OPEN TO PUBLIC					
5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered Interior Exterior					
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: flex-end;"> <div style="width: 45%;">  6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional) </div> <div style="width: 50%;"> 7. PHOTOGRAPH </div> </div>					
8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.	9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER mob DATE OF RECORD				



11x1-88

D-137

75%



D-137



